Statlock® type pad that includes a removable, releasable, and replaceable clamping mechanism to clamp around a portion of catheter **10**.

[**0109**] In embodiments in which an adhesive pad is used (e.g., Statlock® type device) to couple catheter **10** to the patient, preferably catheter **10** is removably coupled to the patient such that the adhesive pad may be changed if it becomes wet or soiled.

[**0110**] In FIGS. **1**A-**1**C, fixation tab **60** is positioned on introducer **75***a*; in FIGS. **2**A-**2**C, fixation tab **60** is provided on introducer **75***b*; in FIGS. **3**A-**3**C, fixation tab **60** is provided on distal end **12**. However, in general, fixation tab **60** may be provided at any suitable location on the sheathed indwelling catheter assembly (e.g., assembly **100***a*), such that the indwelling catheter (e.g., indwelling catheter **10**) may be coupled to the patient during extended catheterizations. For instance, fixation tab **60** may be provided on distal end **32**, on catheter **10** distal to takeoff port **17**, on catheter **10** proximal to takeoff port **17**, on takeoff port **17**, on an introducer (e.g., introducer **75***a* or **75***b*), on a collar coupling sheath **40** to the indwelling catheter, or combinations thereof. Further, in some embodiments, no fixation tab **60** is provided. Still further, in other embodiments (e.g., FIG. **2**A), more than one fixation tab **60** may be provided.

[**0111**] During extended use of the indwelling catheter **10**, both expander **15** and fixation tab **60** may cooperate to deter withdraw of indwelling catheter **10** from the patient and to prevent excessive movement of indwelling catheter **10** relative to the patient.

[**0112**] In general, distal end **12** of indwelling catheter **10** may comprise any suitable geometry. Examples of suitable geometries include without limitation, flared or increased diameter distal end **12** (e.g., FIGS. **1**A-**1**C, **4**A-**4**G), uniform diameter distal end **12** (e.g., FIGS. **2**A-**2**C, **3**A-**3**C), decreasing diameter distal end **12**, etc.

[**0113**] Further, in each of the Figures disclosed herein, distal end **12** of catheter **10** extends outside sheath **40**. However, in other embodiments, part or all of non-insertable portion **30**, including distal end **12**, may be enclosed by sheath **40**, similar to those shown in House III, which discloses catheter assemblies in which non-insertable portion **30** is partially and completely enclosed by sheath **40**.

[**0114**] Embodiments of the sheathed indwelling catheter assembly disclosed in FIGS. **2**A-**2**C and **3**A-**3**C (assemblies **100***b* and **100***c*, respectively), include a removable sheath **40**. Sheath **40** includes a pre-weakened tear line **48** coupled to a pull tab **49** such that sheath **40** is designed to tear along tear line **48** when pull tab **49** is pulled. Other embodiments of the sheathed indwelling catheter assembly (e.g., **100***a*, and *d-j*) may include a removable sheath **40** similar to that shown in FIGS. **1**A-**1**C and **3**A-**3**C. Such a removable sheath may be configured to be completely removed once tip **14** of indwelling catheter **10** is properly positioned in the patient urinary bladder or removed as tip **14** is advanced into the patient's urethra. Preferably, any removable sheath is removed in a manner to minimize opportunities for insertable portion **20** to contact a non-sterile surface.

[**0115**] Catheterization Kit

[**0116**] Referring to FIG. **5**, a representative catheterization kit ("cath kit") **70** that is particularly useful for long-term patient catheterizations includes a sheathed indwelling catheter assembly **72**, representative of those shown and described above as sheathed catheter assemblies **100***a-j*. For example, sheathed catheter assembly **72** may include an introducer **75**, catheter **10**, and a sheath **40**. Sheath **40** may be coupled to introducer **75**, if present, and coupled to catheter **10** near the distal end **12** of catheter **10**. Further, assembly **72** may include one or more vents (not shown in FIG. **5**) in any suitable location including without limitation, in sheath **40**, in introducer **75**, in a collar (e.g., collar **43**) coupling sheath **40** to catheter **10**, or combinations thereof.

[**0117**] In addition to the sheathed catheter assembly, the kit preferably also contain one or more packaged antiseptic swabs **79** (e.g., swabs saturated with Betadine, Povidone-Iodine or other suitable antiseptic), disposable gloves **80**, an adhesive pad **81** (e.g., Statlock® type adhesive pad) small urine specimen bottle (with cap) **78**, and a tray **71** that holds these supplies and also serves as a urine collection container and has a capacity in the range of 700-2000 mL, preferably about 1000 mL. Preferably a fenestrated drape is also included in the kit. A gauze pad may also be included in the kit as a convenient wipe at the end of the procedure. The kit components are protected by a sanitary wrapper or cover **82**. All kit components are preferably disposable.

[**0118**] Absent from the present kit, however, are the customary liquid antiseptic packet, cotton balls, tray for cotton balls, forceps, and packet containing lubricating jelly. In some embodiments, the fenestrated drape is also omitted from the kit without compromising sterile technique. The conventional waterproof absorbent pad is also unnecessary, as it was often included in the past primarily to provide a sterile field for placement of the sterile jelly. Preferably, the lubricant is provided within the indwelling catheter assembly. For example, a lubricating amount of sterile lubricant may be present inside the sheath lumen, or inside introducer **75**. Further, in some embodiments, indwelling catheter **10** may be a lubricated hydrophilic type as is known in the art, in which case the lumen and/or the introducer **75** (e.g., an introducer) a wetting agent (e.g., water). A drawback of conventional apparatus and methods is that contact between the indwelling catheter and any non-sterile surface (e.g., nurses hands, patient's leg, etc.), as when lubricating jelly is applied, for instance, increases the risk of contamination of the indwelling catheter, which may result in a urinary tract infection. In contrast, with the present kit, if sheathed indwelling catheter assembly **72** touches anything outside the sterile field, the insertable portion of the catheter remains sterile. Another potential problem associated with conventional catheterization kits and procedures is that, if a glove touches anything outside the sterile field and then touches the catheter, the catheter may become contaminated. If a sheathed indwelling catheter assembly is employed instead, and if a glove becomes contaminated, the indwelling catheter nevertheless remains sterile inside the protective sheath. Thus, the risk of infection and patient morbidity is reduced or eliminated with use of the new catheterization kit and catheterization procedure.

[**0119**] Liquid antiseptic packet, cotton balls, tray for cotton balls, forceps, and packet containing lubricating jelly are not needed for carrying out a streamlined catheterization procedure with the above-described sheathed catheter assembly **72** and maintaining sterile technique.

[**0120**] Catheterization Procedure

[**0121**] Embodiments of the sheathed indwelling catheter assembly of the present disclosure (e.g., assemblies **100***a-j*) may be used alone or as part of catheterization kit **70**. In general, the sheathed indwelling catheter assembly is employed as described above in reference to FIGS. **1**A-**1**C, **2**A-**2**C, and **3**A-**3**C.